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SECTIONS FROM A. VIIRLAID'S NOVEL "FADING LIGHTS"

An old man Eerik never met, brought into the forest to the partisans his collection of old coins (Russian 5 and 10 ruble pieces). The old man was later tortured to death by MVD in Viljandi. Eerik used this money to bring seven people from Siberia and help the farmers with their taxes.

Eerik came to Tallinn in 1950 to obtain equipment for his escape to Finland around Lake Ladoga. Was north of Ladoga in fall of 1949, but was forced to call the escape off because of illness.

The partisans had a flagstaff next to the bunker flying the Estonian flag.

Partisan Leader Kaaruks had been hiding in the woods throughout the German and Russian occupations. Was killed by a Soviet raid sometime prior to Eerik's joining with the partisans. Eerik's friend (called Armo) who left with him from Kopli prison resembles Kaaruks and masquerades in his role throughout the book. Friend Armo is related to a partisan called "Uncle."

Three partisans from Eerik's group capture three Russian officers, tie them on the backs of three pigs and release the entire party on the market place of Viljandi.

The band ambushes a car with three communist functionaries (one is the chairman of the Executive Committee of a neighboring district). Band leader (called Sarak) kills him and another. The third is allowed to leave.

The band joins with another group from Viljandi area led by "Black Captain" (born and lived in Russia). Eerik and Black Captain masquerade as MVD officers from Viljandi and drug a company of MVD troops with Caucasian wine who are stationed in a farm (the home and birthplace of Eerik's friend Armo). The rest of the team attacks at night taking weapons, food and clothes from the sleeping MVD.

Kaarin, wife of an Estonian Army major (killed in Varska in 1941 by Russians) joins the partisans. Her eight year old son has been taken by the Soviets. Later she is allowed to live in Viljandi, then comes back to the band again.

Eerik's friend Armo and another partisan leave the band because of disagreements with the leader (Sarak - Parts). Two more partisans are stated to have left, but later in the story they turn up again.

Another partisan, "Rebel" is disgusted, has a fight with the leader and leaves to turn himself in. Eerik accompanies him to Tallinn, using passports obtained in the fall of 1946.

In the prison in Tallinn, artificial inseminations are carried out by male prisoners passing the stuff in paper bags to female prisoners. Women write requests for a child by certain men. Eerik receives a request from a girl called Leel. Eerik met her first in 1944 just before his capture. Her family had been killed, she herself raped by the Russians. Later she became a co-leader in a partisan band, where Eerik saw her again when their bands joined up.

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For file

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Eerik takes part with Leel's band in an attack to MVD food storage. The relieving column of two truckloads of MVD troops is destroyed and burned. Leel orders one of the wounded MVD officers to be thrown into the burning warehouse. Later she shoots a wounded comrade who could not be taken along.

Eerik and his friend Armo masquerade as MVD officers and board a train in Petseri. Near Verioja station there is an ambush, the MVD escort is destroyed and one million rubles captured. Leel's band provides the ambush dressed in Russian uniforms.

Leel is pregnant by Armo who plans to send her to Sweden in a Messerschmidt he has hidden, wants Eerik to go along. Armo also plans a tank attack against Tartu prison. Eerik is disgusted with his friend because of Leel. Later Eerik and Leel visit her grandmother who tells her that she must have a Caesarian operation.

Throughout the book sex plays a much more dominant role than in the first novel. Eerik is often close to women, but never takes advantage. In one place he is chided by another partisan for not going to women in the village.

The self-glorification is evident. Fellow prisoners adore him and the entire prison celebrates his 30th birthday. In 1950 it should actually have been his 51st.

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